

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 324

July 24, 1995, 6:03 p.m.
Page S-10553 Temp. Record

LOBBYING REFORM/Compromise Provisions

SUBJECT: Lobbying Reform Act of 1995 . . . Levin/McConnell substitute amendment No. 1836 to the Levin/Cohen amendment No. 1836.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 98-0

SYNOPSIS: As introduced, S. 1060 contains the provisions of title I of S. 101. The bill will provide for greater disclosure of lobbying activities.

The Levin/Cohen amendment would make the following changes:

- it would strike provisions creating the Office of Lobbying Disclosure and would provide instead for: development of standards, rules and procedures by the Office of Government Ethics to administer the Act; administration by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House; and civil penalty enforcement through the Department of Justice;
- it would strike the part of the definition on lobbying activities concerning grassroots lobbying and would insert in lieu thereof that the only grassroots activities covered would be the activities of people hired by individuals who would otherwise be required to register as lobbyists;
- it would exempt communications to the public, whether widely disseminated or not, from the definition of lobbying contact;
- it would exempt information given in response to an oral or written request from the definition of lobbying contact;
- it would amend the definition of the term "lobbyist" to require more than one lobbying contact and at least 20 percent of one's time to be spent lobbying over a 6-month period before one would be defined as a lobbyist;
- it would require the reporting of a lobbying contact within 45 days of the contact and the filing of a semi-annual reports within 45 days of the end of the period (instead of 30 days in both cases); and
- it would double various threshold amounts in this bill.

The Levin/McConnell substitute amendment to the Levin/Cohen amendment would make the following changes and additions to the Levin/Cohen amendment:

- the term "covered executive branch official" would not include Senior Executive Branch officials;

(See other side)

YEAS (98)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republican (52 or 100%)		Democrats (46 or 100%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (2)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchison	Akaka	Inouye			Bennett- ²	
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Baucus	Johnston			Lugar- ²	
Bond	Jeffords	Biden	Kennedy				
Brown	Kassebaum	Bingaman	Kerrey				
Burns	Kempthorne	Boxer	Kerry				
Campbell	Kyl	Bradley	Kohl				
Chafee	Lott	Breaux	Lautenberg				
Coats	Mack	Bryan	Leahy				
Cochran	McCain	Bumpers	Levin				
Cohen	McConnell	Byrd	Lieberman				
Coverdell	Murkowski	Conrad	Mikulski				
Craig	Nickles	Daschle	Moseley-Braun				
D'Amato	Packwood	Dodd	Moynihan				
DeWine	Pressler	Dorgan	Murray				
Dole	Roth	Exon	Nunn				
Domenici	Santorum	Feingold	Pell				
Faircloth	Shelby	Feinstein	Pryor				
Frist	Simpson	Ford	Reid				
Gorton	Smith	Glenn	Robb				
Gramm	Snowe	Graham	Rockefeller				
Grams	Specter	Harkin	Sarbanes				
Grassley	Stevens	Heflin	Simon				
Gregg	Thomas	Hollings	Wellstone				
Hatch	Thompson						
Hatfield	Thurmond						
Helms	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

- the definition of the term "lobbying activity" would be amended to strike the section on grassroots lobbying entirely;
- the threshold amount at which an organization must report lobbying expenses would be \$20,000 in a 6-month annual period (instead of \$10,000);
- no exemption would be given from the semiannual report requirement for registered lobbyists with income or expenses under certain thresholds;
- references to contacts with committees of Congress would be deleted;
- the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House would be responsible for developing common standards, rules, and procedures for compliance with this Act (instead of the Office of Government Ethics); and
- the provision that would require the computer systems implementing this Act to be compatible with the Federal Election Commission's computer systems would be deleted.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The Levin/McConnell amendment builds upon the Levin/Cohen amendment. Both amendments would raise thresholds and both amendments would eliminate the sections creating an Office of Lobbying Registration. The Senate would administer the Act and would notify the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia of violations. Civil fines only of up to \$50,000 could be imposed. The Levin/McConnell amendment changes include that it would totally eliminate the section on grassroots lobbying instead of limiting it, and that it would raise the threshold to \$20,000 instead of \$10,000 for the minimum amount that an organization must spend on lobbying in a reporting period before this Act would apply to it. Another significant change is that covered executive branch employees would only include political appointees--Senior Executive Service personnel would be exempt. We are confident that this amendment will now lead to very broad support for this bill, and we accordingly urge its speedy adoption.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.